

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

I am tired of our nation being subjected to bully tactics by the power grabbers who change the laws, swallow up and distort healthy media providers, contaminate balanced civic dialogue and provide one-sided exploitative propaganda to our citizens. The media is too important for democracy to allow street corner gangland like tactics, name-calling, abusive lies or half-truths and pyramids of ideological propaganda to become the day's spin that is dictated by selfish conquering corporate grabbers through their want-to-bes and employees.

Government is consumed and becoming rapidly digested to become part of a corporate controlled Media-Energy Military-Empire (ME ME) that is converting individual opportunity and support of both individual and public interest into a marketplace of corporate contractors. This is taking a variety of direct services and sources of information from the public and hiring them out to private contractors to do what they will without adequate accountability. It is stealing information and money from US citizens and giving both to select "robber baron" friends.

The FCC and Congress have handed the megaphone to the multinational power-hungry want-to-bes through regulatory change, ideological laziness and failure to enforce the laws that still remain. Please protect our access to many voices and the many information channels we need to make informed choices. Don't give away our democracy to the highest contributor.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.